being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vacant post of Deputy Advisor (UNANI) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1354. SHRl SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will ihe Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

ia) whither it is a fact that the post of Deputy Advisor (Unani) is lying vacant in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the last so many years; if so, since whe.fi:

(b) what are the reasons for keeping this POM vacant for such a long period; and

hen it is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHA PARDE): (a) to (c) The post of Deputy Advise$_r$ (Unani) in thi$_s$ Ministry is vacant since 25-2-1985. The post has not been fill".] up so fa^T' as initially the Re-cruitmen^f Rules were to be amended. Afte- <!<1ment of the Recruitment mitter was taken up with the Union P' Mic ervice Commission as the uired to be filled up by direct The post was reserved for Scheduler' Tribe candidate. Since no person ble from this category fresh ition was sent and the post was advertised bv the Commission on 12-11-1988. 'mendations of the Commission

Lack of fnnds for health Scheme,

1355. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRT MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM;

Will the Ministe,- of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item on lack of funds for health schemes which appeared in the Times of Indi$_a$ dated ,the 2nd February, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether some remedial measures will be take$_n$ to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHA-PARDE): (a) to (c) The news item has been seen by the Government. The Government is alrady seized of the problem. Recommendations of the Conference of th$_e$ Central Council of Health and Family Welfare held 1—3 February, 1989 have been forwarded to the Planning Commission for consideration depending on their feasibility and availability of resources.

Privatisation of Defence Production by contacting foreign firms

1356. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN: SHRI M. A. BABY;

Wil! the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are planning privatisation of defence Production by contacting foreign firms; and

(b) if so, the areas of manufacture already handed over to private agencies through foreign firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRO-DUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRl CHIN-TAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b)

With regard to indigenou$_s$ pioduct'ion of Defence stores, the policy adopted by the Government is one of optimum utilisation of the capacity available in the country, be that in the Defence Secto$_r$ or Civil Sector including the Private Sector. Pursuant to this policy. $_a$ number of low-technology items have been off-loaded from the defence production units to the civil sector including the private sector. In addition whenever new weapon systems, ammunition,; or other ecroipment are being

planned for production in the defence production units, non-lethal, non-sensitive components, sub-assemblies and assemblies which can be productionised in the civil sector are being identified and orders for such components, sub-assembliesi and assemblies are ordered on civil sector firms including those in the private sector. This cannot be called privatisation. Such off-loading to the civil sector including the private sector is, however, through direct inter action with the Industry and not through foreign firms.

Poverty alleviation

1357. SHRl JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) The steps taken to lay sterss on poverty alleviation and to solve unemployment problem during the Seventh Five Year plan period;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard during the Eighth Five Year plan preiod; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Removal of poverty and unemployment is the central concern of planning in India. Consistent with this objective, the Seventh Plan laid emphasis on accelerated agricultural growth, increased productivity of rice in eastern region, developing the potential of dry land agriculture, adoption of special measures for increasing and expandingirrigation facilities, provision of incentives for development of small and village industries. The Plan also included a number of antipoverty and employment generation programmes specially designed to raise skills, productivity and incomes of people below the poverty line.

(b) and (c) SteeringlWorking Grouns have been set up to suggest specific steps which need to be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Spread of AIDS in India

1358. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to ensure that the existing blood banks *have* not been trainted by AIDS-infected donors;

(b) whether Government have started a systematic approach to this problem; and

(c) if so, the detailg of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINTSTRY OF HEALTH TND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE^: (a) to (c) 739 Blood Banks are functioning in the country. Out of this 50 per cent of the available blood is collected from four Metropolitian cities.

An action plan has been evolved to en-oure safeti' of blood products and prevent spread of AIDS infection through bload transfusion steps have been initiated to establish linkages between blood bant,-s and surveillance centres in 30 cities, so that screening of blood for HTV antibodies could be initiated. In two metropolitan cities—Madras and Bombav the screening programme has already been launched.

Guidelineg have also been issued for screening of blood donors, where surveillance centres have been established by Indian Council of Medical Research.

Export of Defence items

1359. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export defence items;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been prepared regarding the items to be